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NWT Labour Force Activity

- August 2015 -

Statistics Canada estimates that in August 2015, 24,500 persons were employed in the Northwest Territories, representing an employment rate of 70.8%. This was the highest employment rate in Canada, followed by Yukon (70%), Alberta (69.3%), and Saskatchewan (66%). Nationally, Canada's employment rate was 62.3%.

In the Northwest Territories, key labour force statistics were unchanged between July and August 2015 (Table 1).

Table 1 Monthly Highlights
Northwest Territories, August 2015

	Aug-15	Jul-15	Aug-14
Population	31,800	31,800	32,300
Labour Force	24,500	24,500	24,600
Employed	22,500	22,500	22,700
Unemployed	2,000	2,000	1,900
Not in Labour Force	7,300	7,300	7,700
Participation (%)	77.0	77.0	76.2
Employment (%)	70.8	70.8	70.3
Unemployment (%)	8.2	8.2	7.7

Figure 2 shows the employment rate and persons in the labour force for youths aged 15 to 24. Between May and August 2015, youth labour force increased by 1,100 persons, to 4,200 while the employment rate increased by about 16 percentage points to 57.6%. By comparison, the employment rate for those aged 25 years and over ranged between 73.7% and 74.8%.

Figure 2 Labour Force & Employment Rate for Youths 15-24 Yrs.
Northwest Territories, Aug 2014 to Aug 2015

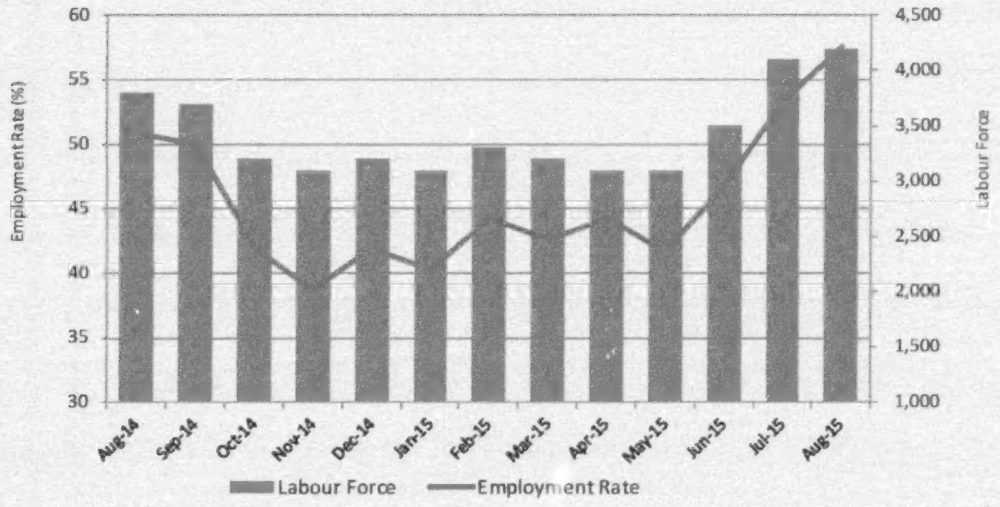

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Table 2 shows the number of employed persons and the employment rate by key characteristics for the past three months. While the overall number of employed persons was unchanged between July and August 2015, there was an increase by 200 persons each among those aged 15 to 24, males, Aboriginal persons, and those living in communities other than Yellowknife. The employment rate increased by 4.3 percentage points among youth aged 15–24, while it declined slightly for those aged 25 and over.

Table 2 ***Employment Rates by Key Characteristics Northwest Territories***

	Aug-15		Jul-15		Jun-15	
	Employed (Persons)	Employment Rate (%)	Employed (Persons)	Employment Rate (%)	Employed (Persons)	Employment Rate (%)
Northwest Territories	22,500	70.8	22,500	70.8	22,200	69.6
15-24 Yrs.	3,400	57.6	3,200	53.3	2,800	46.7
25 Yrs. & Over	19,100	74.0	19,300	74.8	19,300	74.5
Males	11,800	74.2	11,600	73.0	11,100	69.8
Females	10,700	67.3	10,900	68.6	11,000	69.2
Aboriginal	8,800	58.3	8,600	57.3	8,500	56.7
Non-Aboriginal	13,700	82.5	13,900	82.2	13,700	81.1
Yellowknife	12,300	82.0	12,500	81.7	12,300	80.9
Other	10,200	60.7	10,000	60.6	9,800	58.7

Table 3 shows changes in the number of employed persons from the previous month and previous year by selected characteristics. There were little changes in employment by the selected characteristics between July and August 2015. On a year-over-year basis, total employment was down by 200 persons. In August 2015, full-time work decreased by 700, while part-time work increased by 500. Gains in the goods-producing industries were offset by declines in the service producing industries.

Table 3 ***Monthly and Yearly Change in Employment by Selected Characteristics Northwest Territories, August 2015***

	Aug-15	Jul-15	Aug-14	Jul-15 to Aug-15 Change (persons)	Aug-14 to Aug-15 Change (persons)
Total Employment	22,500	22,500	22,700	-	(200)
Full-time	19,800	19,900	20,500	(100)	(700)
Part-time	2,700	2,600	2,200	100	500
Employees	20,600	20,600	20,800	-	(200)
Public	9,600	9,400	9,800	200	(200)
Private	11,000	11,200	11,000	(200)	-
Self-employment	1,800	1,900	1,900	(100)	(100)
Goods Producing	4,600	4,500	4,100	100	500
Service Producing	17,800	18,000	18,600	(200)	(800)

The following table presents historical labour force activity in the Northwest Territories.

Table 4 ***Labour Force Activity***
Northwest Territories

	Population 15 & Over	Labour Force	Employed	Unemployed	Not in the Labour Force	Participation Rate	Unemployment Rate	Employment Rate
Aug-15	31,800	24,500	22,500	2,000	7,300	77.0	8.2	70.8
Jul-15	31,800	24,500	22,500	2,000	7,300	77.0	8.2	70.8
Jun-15	31,900	23,800	22,200	1,700	8,000	74.6	7.1	69.6
May-15	32,000	23,500	21,600	1,900	8,500	73.4	8.1	67.5
Apr-15	32,100	23,200	21,600	1,600	8,800	72.3	6.9	67.3
Mar-15	32,200	23,600	21,700	1,900	8,500	73.3	8.1	67.4
Feb-15	32,200	23,600	21,800	1,800	8,600	73.3	7.6	67.7
Jan-15	32,300	23,400	21,600	1,800	8,900	72.4	7.7	66.9
Dec-14	32,300	23,300	21,600	1,700	9,000	72.1	7.3	66.9
Nov-14	32,300	23,400	21,800	1,700	8,900	72.4	7.3	67.5
Oct-14	32,300	23,700	21,900	1,800	8,700	73.4	7.6	67.8
Sep-14	32,300	24,300	22,500	1,800	8,000	75.2	7.4	69.7
Previous Years:								
Aug-14	32,300	24,600	22,700	1,900	7,700	76.2	7.7	70.3
Aug-13	32,600	26,100	24,200	2,000	6,400	80.1	7.7	74.2
Aug-12	32,500	26,100	23,800	2,300	6,300	80.3	8.8	73.2
Aug-11	32,400	26,100	23,900	2,200	6,300	80.6	8.4	73.8
Aug-10	32,100	24,200	22,300	1,900	7,900	75.4	7.9	69.5
Aug-09	31,800	23,100	21,500	1,600	8,600	72.6	6.9	67.6
Aug-08	31,800	24,600	23,100	1,400	7,200	77.4	5.7	72.6
Aug-07	31,600	25,200	23,600	1,600	6,400	79.7	6.3	74.7
Aug-06	31,200	24,900	23,500	1,400	6,400	79.8	5.6	75.3
Aug-05	31,200	24,900	23,500	1,400	6,400	79.8	5.6	75.3

Information on the territorial labour market is a result of the extension of Statistics Canada's national labour force survey (LFS) to the Northwest Territories. Data presented for the Northwest Territories is based on three-month moving averages, with survey counts rounded to the nearest 100 persons.

For additional information on the monthly release of labour force survey results for the Northwest Territories, visit the NWT Bureau of Statistics website at http://www.statsnwt.ca or call (867) 873-7147.

Next Release: October, 9 2015.